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Junior Forest Ranger Handbook

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your name

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Forest Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture

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Hi . . .

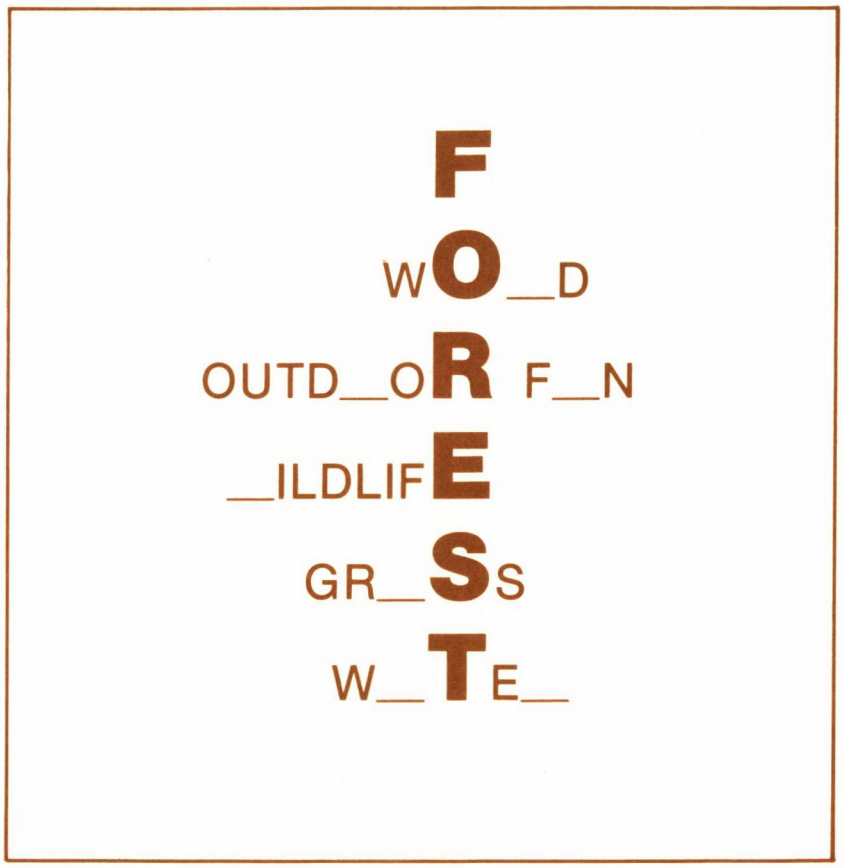
I'm mighty glad that you want to be one of my Junior Forest Rangers. You know I need your help and that of your friends to prevent forest and wood fires. To become an official Junior Forest Ranger, I want you to play the fun games on the following pages. Have an adult help you if you wish. When you have made good scores on all the games and have filled in the check list on the last page, you have earned the title of Junior Forest Ranger. Then it's your turn to show others how they can help you and me prevent forest fires.

Written by Glenn A. Kovar July 1960
Reviewed and approved for reprinting April 1980

Forests give us many things

Our forests are very important. When they are managed correctly, they give us many valuable things.
Can you find out what things the forests give us by filling in the missing letters?

answers on page 21



What is a forest made of?

A forest is made of many things—
Like soil and wood and rocks and leaves,
Like bushes and grasses and flowers and trees.
And each of these, an important thing,
Wondrous products to us bring.

See if you can tell which of the following are made from trees and tree products.

	Yes	No
1. A rayon shirt	☐	☐
2. Photo film for your camera	☐	☐
3. Plastic phonograph records	☐	☐
4. Chewing gum	☐	☐
5. Fourth of July fireworks	☐	☐
6. Colored crayons	☐	☐
7. Imitation leather shoes	☐	☐
8. Insect sprays	☐	☐
9. Shatterproof glass	☐	☐
10. Shoe polish	☐	☐

answers on page 21

Forest fires destroy many things

Forest fires destroy many of the wonderful things forests and trees give us. This makes me very sad.
Can you help me complete my poem about forest fires? Each dash stands for a missing letter. Place the right letters over the dashes to complete the words.

Who Started The Fire?

Who started the f ___ that burned the for ___
That gave us the w ___ to build our house
That gave us wa ___ r to supply the town
That gave us gr ___ s to feed the cows?

Who started the f ___
That killed the ___ish
That burned the ___eer
That destroyed the resources we're going to ___iss?

Not yo ___ . . . I hope.

answers on page 21

Learn how little Smokey is careful with fire . . . in the forest

Break Matches

Matches are very dangerous when people use them carelessly. Little Smokey has five match rules he wants children to help teach their families.

- When you strike a match, be sure part of the match head does not fly off into dry grass or leaves and start a fire.
- Never place matches in the hot sun or near dangerous fuels like gasoline.
- Always break matches in two pieces and feel their tips before throwing them away. If the match tip is hot, it may break into flame again and start a fire.

- Never throw even a cool match into dry grass or leaves. Grind the match into plain soil with the heel of your shoe.
- Never throw a match from a car window. The wind from the car's movement can fan the match into flames.

Care With All Fires

All fires are dangerous unless people are careful with them. A tiny spark from the tip of a match can cause just as much damage as an abandoned campfire. Careful people never burn a lot of loose paper in an open fire. A breeze can easily pick up the flaming paper and blow it into the woods to start a forest fire.

Trash burning is another serious cause of forest fires. Trash should only be burned in a cleared area and according to your local fire rules.

Always be especially careful with fire on a windy day. Keep

simple firefighting equipment like a shovel, ax, water bucket, or car-size fire extinguisher handy at all times.

If your clothes ever catch fire—stay calm. ***Do not run.*** Use water if handy. If not, roll yourself in a blanket or similar material to smother the fire.

Crush Cigarettes

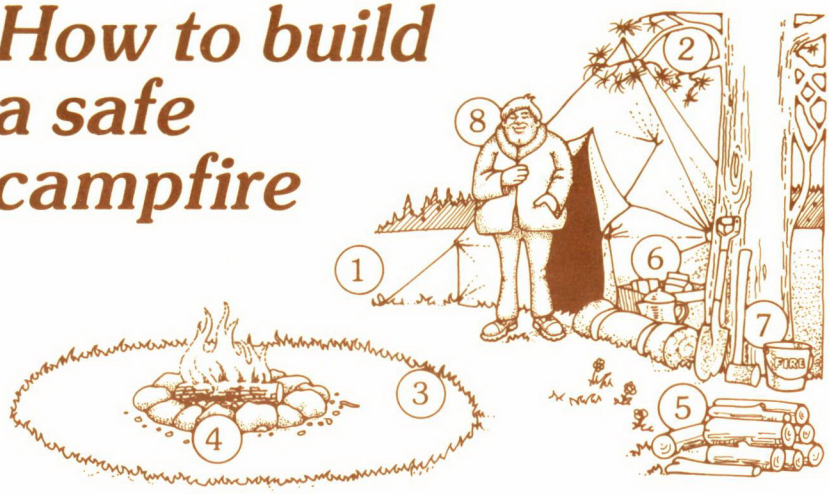
Each year cigarettes, cigars, and pipe ashes start thousands of forest fires. These fires can be prevented if everyone will be careful with smokes in or near the forests. Little Smokey suggests that children remind adults to:

- Smoke only in a safe area. Be sure that hot ashes fall on bare ground and do not blow into dry grass or leaves.
- Never let anyone grind out a cigar or cigarette on a dry or rotten log. Sparks can smolder in rotten wood for several days before breaking into flame.
- Make sure cigarette butts are ground out on a flat rock or in plain soil. Use a shoe heel to grind the butt into the earth.
- Never throw cigarette butts from a car window. The wind can easily fan a hidden spark into a dangerous flame.
- Remember, a ***No Smoking*** sign in the forest means no smoking at all, not even in an automobile.

Drown Campfires

Be sure your campfire is put out . . . dead out . . . before you leave. Little Smokey always drowns his open campfire with water, mixes the ashes with plain soil, and then buries the ashes in cool moist earth or sand. He's always sure the rocks around the fire are cool and not hiding some hot embers. All good campers take extra care with partially burned sticks or logs. They scrape them to make sure all the hot embers are off, then they wet and bury them. Little Smokey never builds a fire in an old stump or uses a flaming stick to play with as a torch . He knows that 9 out of 10 forest fires are caused by people who have been careless . . . careless for even just 1 second.

How to build a safe campfire



Campfires can be wonderful things. They can keep you warm, cook your food, and make the forest seem cheery and bright. But campfires can do this only if they are built safely and correctly. A Junior Forest Ranger would help adults build a campfire like this.

1. Abide by local campfire laws. Then find a shady spot away from dry logs, branches, bushes, needles, or leaves.
2. Make sure there are no low overhanging tree branches near the fire.
3. Use a shovel to clear a 10-foot area of leaves, grass, roots, and other material that might burn. A fire can often creep along under the ground, slowly burning roots and dead leaves. Days later, that smoldering fire could break out into a real blaze.
4. Scoop a small hole in the center of the cleared area and place rocks around it.
5. Cut short lengths of dry wood for the fire. A small hot fire is the best cooking and warming fire. Store the extra wood away from the campfire.
6. Keep all objects that might burn, like matches, food wrappings, plastic sheets, and tents away from the campfire.
7. Keep firefighting tools in a handy and safe place.
8. Never leave a campfire going even if you're away from camp for only a few minutes.

How good a Junior Forest Ranger can you be?

Rules for the Hazard Hunt on the next page.

Read "How To Build a Safe Campfire," page 8, and "Learn How Little Smokey Is Careful With Fire — in the Forest," pages 6 and 7. Then study the drawing on page 10 and see if you can spot 10 ways the campers are being careless with fire. Write each careless act you spot in the space below. Compare them with the correct answers on page 21.

Your answers to the "Careful With Fire in the Forest" Hazard Hunt

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

answers on page 21

Careful with fire in the forest— hazard hunt

See instructions on page 9.

Learn how little Smokey is careful with fire . . . close to home

Check Before Burning Trash

Many parts of the country have local laws telling when and how you may burn trash, leaves, old logs, and tree branches. Does your family know the burning laws in your town? Little Smokey thinks everybody should.

Call your local fire department or forest ranger and ask what the law is when burning trash. Some States and counties allow fires only from 6 a.m. to 10 a.m. and from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. In other parts of the country, the burning laws depend on the season of the year and local weather condition.

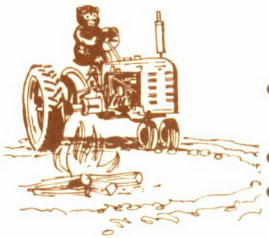
Use Safe Incinerators

Many outdoor incinerators look like a large can or 50-gallon drum with a screen over the top. Old newspapers and other loose trash should be burned in a safe incinerator—not in an open fire. Help adults follow these 3 simple rules:

- Make sure anything that can catch fire, like leaves and grass, has been cleared for at least 10 feet around the incinerator.
- Inspect the incinerator to make sure it hasn't any cracks where sparks can escape.
- Ask an adult to make sure the spark arrester or screen on top of the incinerator is the kind recommended by your fire department. Only spark arresters in good condition will prevent sparks from flying into the air—sometimes causing forest and grass fires.

Plow Fire Lines

Sometimes farmers and ranchers have to burn weeds or brush in their fields. This can be very dangerous unless certain fire safety steps are taken first. Smokey wants Junior Forest Rangers to remind farmers and ranchers to:



- Check with local fire department or forest ranger and lookout tower before burning.
- Plow a wide fireline around the field before burning.
- Never burn on a windy day.
- Keep firefighting tools and water spray tanks handy to control the flames.
- Never leave the fire—not even for a few minutes.

Check Yard And Car

Many things can cause forest fires close to home if they are not kept safe. Junior Forest Rangers should:

- Have an adult call the electric power company if tree branches are rubbing against power lines.
- Keep the yard clear of dry grass, weeds, branches, and other things that burn quickly.
- Ask if the chimney is free of leaves and equipped with a safe spark arrester.
- Help place a fire extinguisher, shovel, and ax in the car.

How to make a safe trash fire

Have you and your family ever burned old newspapers, boxes, leaves, or tree branches? How about old Christmas trees—have you ever made a bonfire from them? Fires made from things like that are called debris or trash fires. A good Junior Forest Ranger follows these points when helping to burn trash.

1. Abide by local trash-burning laws.
2. Never start an open fire on a windy day.
3. Clear a 30-foot circle around trash before lighting the fire.
4. See that there are no tree branches close to the flames.
5. Keep a shovel, rake, and water hose or spray tank close by to stop the fire from spreading.
6. Make sure an adult stays with the fire until it is ***dead out***. Wet down the embers with water and stir them to make sure no spark is left alive.

How good a Junior Forest Ranger can you be?

Rules for the Fire Prevention Detective Game on the next page

Read "How To Make a Safe Trash Fire," page 13, and "Learn How Little Smokey Is Careful With Fire — Close to Home," pages 11 and 12. Now study the drawing on the following page for 3 minutes. Then see if you can answer the 10 questions listed below. Eight complete right answers is good for a Junior Forest Ranger.

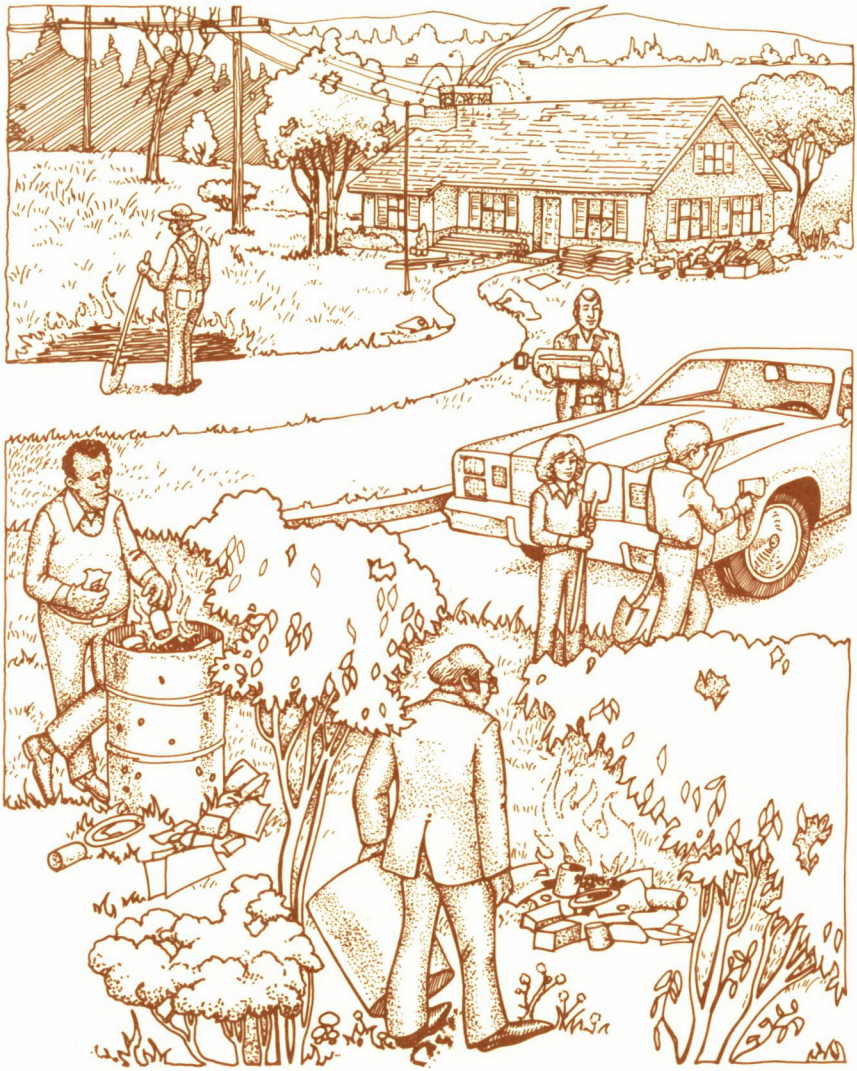
Study the picture on the next page, then answer these questions

1. What is coming from the chimney? Is this safe?
2. Did the person burning trash have a screen over the incinerator?
3. What should have been cleared from around the incinerator before it was lit?
4. Did the farmer plow a fireline before burning the field? What might happen?
5. Does the person burning trash have tools handy in case the fire spreads? Name 3 tools that should have been handy.
6. Was there anything on the electric power line that might have started a forest fire? What?
7. The waving flag by the house shows that it is a windy day. Is this a good time to burn trash?
8. Has the incinerator been placed in a safe spot? Why?
9. Has the yard been made safe from fire? Why?
10. What tools are the Junior Forest Rangers and their parents placing in the car?

answers on page 21

How good a fire prevention detective are you?

Study this picture for 3 minutes. Then answer the questions on page 14.



What to do if you spot a forest fire

If you find a forest fire, report it right away. Follow these three simple rules:

1. Be calm. Report the fire by telephone to your local forest ranger, fire warden, or fire department. Say, "I want to report a fire." Then tell how big the fire is, when you saw it, and ***where you saw it***.
2. If the fire is small, sometimes an ADULT can put it out safely. Junior Forest Rangers should never try to put a fire out by themselves. Always call an adult for help.
3. The best way to stop forest fires is to prevent them from happening. Junior Forest Rangers help prevent forest fires by helping everyone to be careful with fire. This is a very important job. Smokey hopes you will do a good job in helping ***Prevent Forest Fires***.

Protect forest fire clues

If you see someone start a forest fire or you find evidence of how a fire was started: First, report the fire or get an adult's help to make sure the fire does not spread. If you know the name of the person who started the fire, tell the ranger or fire department immediately. If you do not know who started it, make note of anyone you have met near the fire; write down what the person looks like, and the license number and kind of car being driven. Preserve any foot, horse, or automobile tracks to show the ranger. Show any other clues you may have found. Always protect clues from being touched until you have shown the ranger. You can protect clues by putting stones around them and placing a sign nearby asking people not to disturb the evidence.

Junior forest ranger quiz

Circle the correct number, only one answer is correct.

17-20 correct = Official Junior Forest Ranger
12-16 correct = Junior Forest Ranger
8-11 correct = Junior Ranger
0-7 correct = Study this handbook again

1. Campfire permits are required for
   (a) indoor fireplaces.
   (b) outdoor areas, depending on local laws.
   (c) lighting Halloween pumpkins.
2. The safest way to start a campfire is with
   (a) a pile of leaves.
   (b) gasoline.
   (c) small pieces of kindling wood.
3. The best place to ask where forest campfires can be built is
   (a) sheriff's office.
   (b) sporting goods store.
   (c) ranger or fire warden station.
4. When staying overnight in the forest, before going to bed you should
   (a) place heavy logs on the fire.
   (b) put out your campfire.
   (c) arrange to get up every 2 hours to check the fire.
5. When you see a bear in a forest, park, or zoo, you should
   (a) pull his fur.
   (b) chase him with a stick.
   (c) stay away from him. Do not pet or feed him. Bears are wild animals and considered dangerous at all times.
6. To cook properly over a campfire, you should
   (a) cook over the flames of a large fire.
   (b) build a small compact fire and cook over the hot embers.
   (c) burn a lot of paper to make the fire hot.
7. The best way to put out a campfire is
   (a) spread out the embers and cool with dirt or water. Mix thoroughly and check for hot spots.

(b) cover it with rocks.
(c) let it alone and it will burn itself out.

8. The best spot for a campfire is
   (a) inside a rotten log or stump.
   (b) under a green tree.
   (c) in a cleared open space away from trees.
9. For camping or burning trash, the following is the most important and practical tool to carry in a car
   (a) shovel.
   (b) bucket of water.
   (c) wet blanket.
10. If a fire gets out of hand, you should
    (a) get your family and run to your car and drive away.
    (b) report it immediately to a forest ranger.
    (c) get other Junior Forest Rangers to fight the fire.
11. If your clothes ever happen to catch afire, you should
    (a) keep calm—do not run—roll a blanket or other covering around you to smother the flames.
    (b) run for help.
    (c) jump up and down real fast.
12. Camp matches should be
    (a) kept in a metal container.
    (b) stored near outboard motor fuel.
    (c) placed in the hot sun.
13. The safest way for adults to light cigarettes is
    (a) use a cigarette lighter.
    (b) strike match on nearby rock.
    (c) use paper book matches and throw into grass when finished.
14. A person who is careless and starts a forest fire
    (a) is made honorary fire chief.
    (b) receives a fire prevention award.
    (c) can be fined and sent to jail.
15. Well-managed forests give us
    (a) Smokey Bear.
    (b) wood, water, wildlife, grass, and outdoor fun.
    (c) just lumber, paper, and walnuts.
16. A match or cigarette thrown from a car window
    (a) is permissible if no one is looking.
    (b) is permissible if it looks like it has gone out.

(c) is never safe.

17. A windy day is a good time
    (a) to burn trash.
    (b) to start a campfire.
    (c) not to start a fire.
18. A trash-burning incinerator should be
    (a) equipped with a good spark arrester.
    (b) placed under a tree for shade.
    (c) used only on windy days.
19. Before lighting an open fire
    (a) people should leave the neighborhood.
    (b) local fire laws should be checked and obeyed.
    (c) drink three glasses of water.
20. Junior Forest Rangers
    (a) put out forest fires.
    (b) start forest fires.
    (c) help prevent forest fires.

answers on page 21

NOTES

Answer page

Page 3 — wood, outdoor fun, wildlife, grass, water

Page 4 — 1—10 all yes

Page 5 — fire, forest, wood, water, grass, fire, fish, deer, miss, you

Page 9 — We saw these mistakes. How many did you see?—Campfire in uncleared area, fire too close to tree branches, setting fire in stump, playing with burning stick, flicking match into grass, leaving burning campfire, throwing cigarette from car window, throwing a lot of newspapers on fire, too much wood close to fire, pipe ashes knocked onto forest floor, no firefighting safety tools in sight, no rocks around fire.

Page 14 —

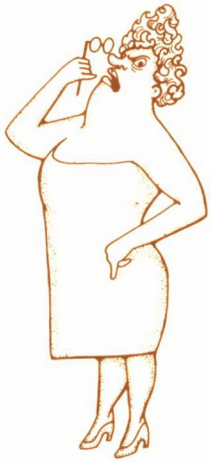
1. Sparks, no, a spark arrestor should be used.
2. No.
3. Leaves, twigs, dry grass, anything that might catch fire.
4. No. The flames might get away and start a forest fire.
5. No. Shovel, water spray can, rake.
6. Yes. Tree branches.
7. No.
8. No. It's in an uncleared area and under tree branches.
9. No. There is a lot of dry grass, leaves, paper, rags, etc., that can easily catch fire.
10. A fire extinguisher, shovel, and hatchet.

Pages 18—19—20 —

1. (b)	6. (b)	11. (a)	16. (c)
2. (c)	7. (a)	12. (a)	17. (c)
3. (c)	8. (c)	13. (a)	18. (a)
4. (b)	9. (a)	14. (c)	19. (b)
5. (c)	10. (b)	15. (b)	20. (c)

We know you didn't, young lady. But some folks are careless burning trash and start forest fires. Please tell your friends to be careful with fire.

It's no laughing matter. 9 out of 10 forest fires are caused by people. Smokey needs your help to prevent forest fires.



Honest, Mrs. Throckmorton, we only meant to tell you to crush your cigarettes, break your matches, and drown your campfire.

If you forgot your pants, your thoughtlessness would cause embarrassment. Thoughtlessness with fire can cause the loss of our forests.

Junior Forest Ranger checklist

	Yes	No
1. I know the name of my local forest ranger or fire warden. It is _____	☐	☐
2. I know the telephone number of my local forest ranger or fire warden. It is _____	☐	☐
3. I know the fire department's number. It is _____	☐	☐
4. I have helped my family put a shovel and fire extinguisher in our car.	☐	☐
5. Before burning trash, I will ask my family to check local burning laws.	☐	☐
6. I will help people to be careful with matches, smokes, and campfires.	☐	☐
7. Our back yard is clean and free of burnable trash.	☐	☐
8. Our house chimney and outdoor fireplace will not allow sparks to fly into the air and start forest fires.	☐	☐
9. If my clothes ever catch on fire, I will stay calm and will not run.	☐	☐
10. I will always do my best to help Smokey prevent forest fires.	☐	☐

NOTES

Your State Forester in cooperation with U.S.
Department of Agriculture—Forest Service